## Hope for a truce in Gaza

Israel and Hamas moved closer to a ceasefire as the death toll continues to rise on both sides PAGE 4

# GIDDY UP! FOR THE GREY CUP

OBBY KHAN REPS FOR THE WEST AS STAMPS TOUCH DOWN IN T.O. PAGE 13

REGINA metro®

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

News worth sharing.

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# Province offers new liquor rules for strip clubs, theatres

**But baring all remains off-bounds.** Bring-your-own-wine will also be allowed in restaurants under changes

Saskatchewan is offering new liquor laws that peel back a long-held prohibition against bars serving booze at striptease, but stop short of the full monty.

The province announced more than 70 new liquor regulations Tuesday, including the move to allow alcohol to be served at striptease performances and wet clothing contests. But it won't allow full frontal nudity and the sale of liquor to be mixed.

"Prohibition against full nudity is still going to be enforced in Saskatchewan, but we will allow some stripping, exotic dancing-type without full nudity in the province," said Donna Harpauer, the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

Saskatchewan is the only province that doesn't allow stripping in places where alcohol is served.

Harpauer said the new rule brings Saskatchewan in line with New Brunswick, where genitals must be covered for men and women and women must have some coverage of their breasts. Decorative nipple coverings, commonly known as pasties, are allowed under Saskatchewan's new rules.

The minister said she doesn't think the change will lead to a boom in Saskatchewan's stripping industry. She said the industry is more interested in being able to have full rather than just partial nudity.

The new rules also allow movie theatres to serve alcohol in age-restricted areas.

Other changes will allow restaurant patrons to bring their own wine to meals. Spas will be able to sell alcohol to clients getting a treatment such as a manicure. Concert halls will be able to sell alcohol for televised or pre-recorded events instead of just live performances.

Golf courses will be allowed to have more alcohol kiosks or carts on the course, instead of the current one cart or kiosk per nine holes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

*We asked you what you thought of the new liquor laws, page 3.*

**A divisive issue**

**Some people think the change is uncalled for and some don't think it goes far enough, Harpauer said.**

- "We're a pretty conservative province ... in a lot of areas and so I just don't think there was a huge appetite to go down the road of full strip joints obviously in Saskatchewan. And, as I said, the feedback that the office got was very mixed."

**Minister, Opposition NDP weigh in**

## *Time for change*

Donna Harpauer, minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, said the rules needed updating.

"The number of liquor carts you can have on a golf course, really, that's just goofy, so it's taking out the goofy in our existing regulations. There is some modernization. ... Spas and theatres are good examples of that."

The Opposition NDP said the changes seem largely positive.

"We want to see how they play out on the ground. We want to see how they wind up getting enforced out there in day-to-day Saskatchewan," said New Democrat Warren McCall.

"But as positive as we think some of the changes are, or could be, we think this is a half measure."

McCall said some of the changes modernize liquor laws, but they also loosen the rules to get access to booze. He said the government should make sure that there are more measures for alcohol education or treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan is currently the only province that does not allow alcohol and strip-teasing to mix, but that could all be about to change. Burlesque clubs will be among the establishments impacted by proposed changes in the regulations.

GAYE GERARD/GETTY IMAGES

## Keeping faith

Despite vandalism setbacks, a Regina couple is determined to restore an old church in the city's north central area PAGE 2

## Taking a hike

The barely clad 'Gitchhiker' hits Saskatchewan as he travels cross-country to raise cancer awareness PAGE 3

## Ri-Ri relief

After 'seven crazy days,' Rihanna's 777 tour couldn't end soon enough for weary fans and journos PAGE 9

# Students learning through blogs; skip paper and pencil

**The new normal.** 'The iPad is just another tool, just like a ruler or a pencil,' says teacher Danielle Maley

Danielle Maley and her Grade 1 class are blogging weekly. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Grade 1 students usually learn with pencils and paper, these students blog.

Danielle Maley teaches her students the normal curriculum but through blogging, tweeting together as a class and sharing with international blog buddies.

"It just gives them such a thrill to have people reading (the blog). If they were just to do a journal in the classroom it would just be me reading it. This just gives them such feedback," said Maley, who teaches at École W.S. Hawrylak Elementary School.

Maley started an education blog, which is specifically for educators and students, three years ago. Her current 22 students — aged between six and seven — individually blog once a week.

"If we couldn't blog, then people wouldn't see our writing," said Rebecca Lewis, a six-year old student in Maley's class. "I write about princesses and um, dogs and about Halloween."

Maley says blog gets around 30 hits a day and many parents actively follow it, as well as people from around the world. She says the blog is just the start of how teaching is changing with new technologies.

"If they want to know information, it's so accessible. My job — even for six-year olds — is to (get) them to become researchers. I need to teach them how to find the information they want to know," said Maley, who refers to her students as "digital natives" or people who have never lived in a time without computers.

ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

# Couple fixes church while facing vandals

Jordan D'Almeida stands inside the church he is restoring in Regina's north central area. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Break-ins and vandalism are not stopping a Regina man from dedicating his time to updating a church in the north central area.

"We have had vandalism issues. I don't like focusing on them, but they are real," said Jordan D'Almeida, who works on the old church at Garnet Street and 7th Ave.

Since D'Almeida and his wife, Donna, bought the property in 2008, they have dealt with a main power line being cut and regular break-ins, but says people rarely took anything until lately.

About a month ago, there was a break-in and tools were stolen, and last Friday night, someone stole the tools D'Almeida had borrowed to continue his work.

**Quoted**

**"We have had vandalism issues. I don't like focusing on them, but they are real."**

Jordan D'Almeida

The project is funded by private donations. Expenses, including the costs to cover the tools and repair the vandalism, comes out of D'Almeida's pocket.

"I find it frustrating and it is a setback but ... it gives me motivation to do what we can to help those people," said D'Almeida.

D'Almeida also uses the building, which includes a church sanctuary and hall, for Bible studies and meetings, and wants to hold a Christmas Eve service to showcase his updates. "We want to get it back to being used for what it is for — an anchor point for the community," said D'Almeida.

The structure was built as an Anglican church and D'Almeida says before he bought the property it was used for movie sets, including the CBC show Little Mosque on the Prairie.

ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

**Economy**

## Budget is still on track: Province's finance minister

Saskatchewan Finance Minister Ken Krawetz says the province faces some challenges because of a drop in non-renewable resource revenue.

But Krawetz says it's not the doom and gloom scenario painted by the Opposition NDP.

Krawetz says the mid-year budget update coming next week will show the decline in non-renewable resource money is being offset by other revenue, like taxes.

He says the update will also show that the budget is still balanced and has a surplus.

The government said in its first-quarter financial report in August that finances took a hit from a drop in oil revenue and Crown land sales, and that it was looking to reduce spending by about $55 million.

Krawetz says that's been done by ministries looking for savings, but no programs have been cut.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Health**

## Private clinics sought to cut surgery wait time

One of Saskatchewan's biggest health regions is hoping third-party providers can help cut the wait time for surgery.

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region says it has signed contracts with two surgical providers so people can have operations more quickly.

The region says the two private facilities are expected to do as many as 2,500 procedures under the contracts.

Officials say the cost for each surgery is less than what it would be if done in a health region hospital.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Alcohol and strip-teases: Yay or nay?

The Saskatchewan government announced more than 70 proposed changes to liquor laws yesterday. One change causing a stir allows adult-only establishments to serve alcohol during strip-tease performances — full-frontal nudity is still prohibited. Metro took to the streets to get your thoughts on the issue.

JANE CAULFIELD AND JEFF MACKEY
regina@metronews.ca

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

### Kelly Littlechild, 34: Call centre supervisor, Saskatoon

"I would have to say no, I guess for the safety of the employees. Some people could overdo it."

### Sonya Winbigo, 19: Student, Regina

"Change (the regulations); other provinces can have strip clubs and drinking and I think that makes sense. People want to have a good time."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

### Tyler Weiland, 28: Various labour, Saskatoon

"I think that it's about time that they did that and I think it's ridiculous that they haven't done it sooner."

### Dmytro Rukas, 23: Customer service rep., Regina

"I don't know how people behave at these places but I can't help but think of the security of the boys and girls who are working there. If people aren't drinking it is less likely they will get drunk and aggressive, and that is a good thing."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

### Melody Faith, 23: Customer service, Saskatoon

"I think it could be fine as long as they regulate it the same ways that bars are — they cut people off when they're getting out of hand."

### Janielle Ogilvie, 18: Student, Regina

"I am not completely opposed to it but I don't really think it is a good idea. I wouldn't want people to abuse the workers, you know, assault them if they got drunk enough."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

# 'Gitchhiker' makes his way through Saskatchewan

**Braving the cold.** Mark McIntyre, a.k.a. the Gitchhiker, is raising cancer awareness one ride at a time

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Anyone who has ever hitchhiked in Canada knows you sometimes have to fly by the seat of your pants — but what if you didn't even have pants?

The Gitchhiker, 43-year-old Mark McIntyre, is a Toronto-based comedian and actor who is hitchhiking from Vancouver to Truro, Nova Scotia with nothing but his Stanfield's underwear to keep him warm.

"I am an amateur hitchhiker, so this is all kind of new," said McIntyre. "I am learning, though. When it is minus 15, you learn pretty quick how to get a ride."

But don't worry about the icy temperatures — the Gitchhiker is always prepared.

"If weather conditions are brutal, I will switch into long johns or something," said McIntyre.

The Gitchhiker's bold endeavour has been garnering him a lot of attention on social media.

"As much as it's funny for me to be on the side of the road for four hours, I would rather be in a car getting a ride and meeting great people."

The Gitchhiker woke up in Edmonton on Tuesday and hopes to hitch a ride all the way to Saskatoon by Tuesday night. He then plans to head south to Regina on Wednesday.

If he completes his journey in 21 days, Stanfield's will donate $20,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society's below-the-belt cancer research, a cause very dear to McIntyre, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer five years ago.

"Luckily I was diagnosed really early. I was fortunate and am now cancer-free for five years," said McIntyre. "I get an opportunity to do these silly things when maybe some other people can't."

**The Gitchhiker is making his way across Canada in nothing but his Stanfield's underwear to help raise awareness about below-the-belt cancer.** CONTRIBUTED/ENVIRONICS COMMUNICATIONS

**Better than a thumb?**

## *Hitching a ride with social media*

The Gitchhiker credits social media with his success in finding rides so far on his 21-day journey.

"If I announce on Twitter that I am having trouble, people will start going crazy just re-tweeting and re-tweeting, and the next thing you know I will get a ride," said McIntyre.

Follow the Gitchhiker on twitter at @gitchhiker.

**@gitchhiker**
Still looking for someone to take me into Saskatoon! It's -15 don't make me stand outside!! #gitch #help

**@gitchhiker**
Driving through the prairies with my new ride Danielle...Second hitch of the day! #gitch

# Push for peace in Israel, Gaza boosts hopes carnage will end

**Pact close?** Hillary Clinton races to region and Netanyahu says Israel would be a 'willing partner' to a ceasefire with Hamas

A diplomatic push to end Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip gained optimistic momentum Tuesday.

Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi predicted Israeli airstrikes would soon end.

**Quoted**

**"Turkey is standing by you ... Israel should end its aggression immediately and lift the inhumane blockade imposed on Gaza."**

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's message to Hamas

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton raced to the region for talks.

And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would be a "willing partner" to a ceasefire with the Islamic militant group Hamas.

As diplomats worked to cement a deal, a top Hamas official said a pact was close — even as relentless airstrikes and rocket attacks between the two sides continued.

The Israeli death toll rose to five with the deaths Tuesday of an Israeli soldier and a civilian contractor. More than 130 Palestinians have been killed.

Israel demands an end to rocket fire from Gaza and a halt to weapons smuggling into Gaza through tunnels under the border with Egypt.

Hamas wants Israel to halt all attacks on Gaza and lift tight restrictions on trade and movement in and out of the territory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Their young world collapses: Children stand in the rubble left after an Israeli strike on a house in Gaza City on Tuesday. HATEM MOUSSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Bye bye, Blighty? EU gets the jitters over possible pullout by fed-up Britain

Goodbye Britain?

For the European Union, a once-unthinkable question is looking more like a real possibility with each new grinding week of economic crisis.

Bad times are forcing the 17 EU nations that use the euro currency to move ever closer toward some kind of United States of Europe — one that could make decisions about how much member countries spend and how much tax they collect.

And that's a nightmare for Britain.

The British public shows no interest in moving closer to the rest of Europe, and most can't even seem to stomach the status quo.

After a 2015 election, Britain — among 10 of the 27 EU nations that don't use the euro — is likely to hold a referendum on whether to leave the EU.

Even if it doesn't hold a vote, the country is already unpicking its ties with Europe, a movement that has unsettled Germany, which is eager to retain the U.K. as an important economic driver of the bloc.

"I will ask the inhabitants of the wonderful island to reflect that they will not be happy if they are alone in this world," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a speech in London last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Storm clouds**

**The prospect of a U.K. exit from the EU alarms some British leaders who see the bloc's free market as vital to their nation's prosperity.**

- **Against:** Former prime minister Tony Blair has urged Britain not to pull away, but to help build a new structure to improve Europe. "It's a very tricky task," he says. "But it's an essential one if the U.K. is not to be sidelined."
- **Also against:** Peter Mandelson, the former European Union trade commissioner, warns that going it alone would mean a waning influence for the U.K. on the global stage. Britain, he says, soon could be a "Hong Kong to Europe's China or a Canada to Europe's United States."

**2011 sets a record**

### A boom year for carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide reached a record high level in the air in 2011, the United Nations weather agency said Tuesday.

Concentrations of the heat-trapping pollutant in the atmosphere averaged 390 parts per million during the year. That is up 40 per cent from before the Industrial Age, the World Meteorological Organization said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**$5 million suit**

### 'Mr. Elmo' quits Sesame Street

A "deeply sorry" Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash resigned from Sesame Street on Tuesday amid claims he sexually abused underage boys.

His departure came as a 24-year-old college student, Cecil Singleton, sued him for more than $5 million Tuesday, accusing him of engaging in sexual behaviour with him when he was 15.

It was the second such allegation in just over a week. A man in his 20s said he had sex with Clash at age 16. A day later, he recanted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Rogue UBS trader gets 7-year sentence

**London trial.** 'There is a strong streak of the gambler in you,' judge tells man who lost $2.2B

A rogue trader who lost $2.2 billion US in bad deals at Swiss bank UBS was sentenced to seven years in prison Tuesday after being convicted in what prosecutors called the biggest fraud case in U.K. banking history.

Ghanaian-born Kweku Adoboli, 32, exceeded his trading limits and failed to cover his losses, allegedly faking records to hide his tracks at the bank's London office. At one point, Adoboli risked running losses of up to $12 billion US.

"There is a strong streak of the gambler in you," Judge Brian Keith told Adoboli. "You were arrogant to think the bank's rules for traders did not apply to you."

Adoboli wiped away tears as Keith handed down his sentence.

A conviction for fraud carries a maximum jail term of 10 years. The 10-person jury at Southwark Crown Court in London found Adoboli guilty of two counts of fraud and innocent of four other false accounting charges.

Kweku Adoboli arrives at Southwark Crown Court in London on Nov. 15. On Tuesday, the former UBS trader was found guilty of two counts of fraud.
KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adoboli ran into trouble dealing in exchange-traded funds, complex financial products that track stocks, bonds and commodities. Adoboli admitted the losses, but said he was pressured by staff to take risks. He also testified last month that he had been trying to help UBS survive after it amassed losses of $52 billion during the 2007-2008 global financial crisis.

"There were times we thought there was no way the organization would survive," said Adoboli, who joined UBS as a trainee in 2003 and rose quickly to become a senior trader. "I grew up with UBS. I felt very loyal to UBS."

Det. Chief Insp. Perry Stokes of City of London Police, who led the investigation of Adoboli, had a different view, believing the trader's motive was "to increase his bonus, his status, his job prospects and his ego."

"Adoboli was a sophisticated fraudster," Stokes said. "He was one of the most accomplished fraudsters that I've seen in my time investigating serious fraud."

After questions were raised about his trading, Adoboli walked off the job and sent an email to colleagues saying what he had done. "I take full responsibility for my actions and the s— storm that will now ensue. I am deeply sorry to have left this mess for everyone and to have put my bank and my colleagues at risk," he wrote.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**By the numbers**

## $12B

**At one point, former UBS trader Kweku Adoboli risked running losses of up to $12 billion US.**

## PM's associates. Bribery charges laid against key players in U.K. media scandal

Two former confidants of Britain's prime minister have been charged with conspiring to pay public officials in exchange for stories and information — the latest development in the country's establishment-shaking scandal over media malfeasance.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Services said former tabloid editors Andy Coulson and Rebekah Brooks were among five people being charged with conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office. Prosecutors said Brooks, a neighbour, close friend, and political ally of Prime Minister David Cameron, conspired with journalist John Kay to funnel as much as $160,000 to a Ministry of Defence employee in return for a stream of stories that were published in Rupert Murdoch's The Sun newspaper.

The prosecutors alleged Coulson, who until last year served as Cameron's top press aide, conspired with journalist Clive Goodman to pay officials for access to a royal phone directory known as the Green Book. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Air travel**

### WestJet customers may get mobile entertainment

WestJet Airlines plans to test a new entertainment system next year that will allow passengers to use their tablets, computers and smart phones to access in-flight television and connect to the Internet, CEO Gregg Saretsky said Tuesday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Sponsorship**

### Hockeyville program is latest lockout casualty

Kraft Canada cancelled its popular Hockeyville program Tuesday, a victim of the protracted National Hockey League lockout that is seeing sponsors, as well as fans grow weary.

Kraft said it would give $1 million to Hockey Canada affiliated minor hockey associations instead of the annual competition that rewards Canadian communities for their involvement in their local arenas.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Research in Motion**

### Analyst gives BB10 better odds

Prominent tech analyst Peter Misek of New York-based Jeffries & Company is giving Research In Motion's new BlackBerry 10 operating system an improved chance of success in the competitive smartphone market when it launches in early 2013. He now says the system has a 20 per cent to 30 per cent probability of success. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Market Minute**

**DOLLAR** 100.27¢ (-0.07¢)

**TSX** 12,046.28 (+5.88)

**OIL** $86.75 US (-$2.53)

**GOLD** $1,723.60 US (-$10.80)

**Natural gas:** $3.84 US (+12¢ )
**Dow Jones:** 12,788.51 (-7.45)

# ON THE ORIGIN OF MIDLIFE CRISES

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's more evidence to prove that homo sapiens are descended from apes.

According to a study involving 500 great apes published in the, ahem, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, chimpanzees and orangutans experience a midlife crisis, just like us.

It's just more difficult to tell, as an ape with angst is unlikely to purchase a Porsche.

I knew it was hereditary! For all we know, it's as universal as life itself: Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas … if you're alive, you know the exact moment when you're over the hill.

**Monkey business**

**"That's not great news if you live in a zoo, because you can expect to live to 50. That's 15-25 years of same-old, same-old: Monkey chow three times a day, stupid children banging on the glass while their parents take flash photos and Bonzo over there keeps trying to horn in on your harem."**

For humans, it's traditionally 45 to 55. Chimps turn into chumps around 27 or 28 and orangutans get the memo at about 35.

That's not great news if you live in a zoo, because you can expect to live to 50. That's 15-25 years of same-old, same-old: Monkey chow three times a day, stupid children banging on the glass while their parents take flash photos and Bonzo over there keeps trying to horn in on your harem.

Of course, this could be more of a comment on the apes' handlers than on the apes themselves, as they were asked to fill out the forms documenting the general mood of their apes, the joy their charges gained from socializing and how they would feel if they had to be an ape for a week.

After a very bad day of putting up with banana breath and monkeyshines, it's only human for a handler to project his or her feelings on the nearest living being, even if said being is more interested in another banana than anything else.

Whatever, the good news is that it gets better.

Just when Bonzo's grinning mug makes Cheetah want to throw his feces, he begins to realize that three squares ain't so bad. After all, he could still be stuck in some jungle in Botswana, dodging lions and poachers, rooting for termites with a stick.

This is roughly analogous to the process of acceptance in humans.

If we survive our midlife crisis without pitching our feces around the office or getting caught surfing NSFW on the Internet, we can look forward to increasing happiness that reaches its peak around 70.

Of course, there are good reasons old guys are happy. They get there early before the lineups. Plus they get the seniors' discount.

The bottom line: If you're feeling like the pack has passed you by, it has less to do with your sorry circumstances and more to do with your hormonal imbalance.

Just hang on.

Primate prime time is about to begin.

I'm not monkeying around — apes experience a midlife crisis, too. IAN WALDIE/GETTY IMAGES

# Royals' site causes security concerns

SAC FAYE STORER/MOD/WWW.DUKEANDDUCHESSOFCAMBRIDGE.ORG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tea-d off**

## Duke and duchess revamp website

This is an undated handout photo issued by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's website on Tuesday of Britain's Prince William making a cup of tea while working as a helicopter search and rescue pilot at RAF Valley on Anglesey, Wales.

Many of the exclusive pictures that gave an insight into the life of the flight lieutenant in Wales at his day-job as a Search and Rescue (SAR) pilot had to be taken down hours after they were posted due to security concerns.

The pictures offered a rare look into the typical day in the life for Prince William in his work flying RAF Sea King helicopters from their base at RAF Valley on Anglesey, north Wales — from planning and preparing for any emergency call-out to resting with his colleagues during downtime.

But the images also included unclassified user names, passwords and computer screens. Britain's Ministry of Defence said in a statement Tuesday that passwords and user names were reset as a precaution and that the photos were reissued. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Shift work**

## 24 hrs

**The latest post on the website detailed Prince William's typical schedule of a 24-hour shift as a pilot.**

**When duty doesn't call**

- The site reveals that Call of Duty is a favourite among Prince Will and his friends.
- On Wednesday, even more photos will be posted — this time by the Duchess — of the trip she and Will took to Asia in September.
- Will's current tour will end by fall 2013, and at that time he is set to decide if he wants to stay on for a few more years.

Metropolitan Panel

**Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll**

## Are you afraid Canada could fall off the "fiscal cliff" along with the U.S.?

**Twitter**

**@flipeatery:**
A big thanks to everyone that has worked so hard to see some change with SLGA #yqr #yqrfood #thatswhatsup

**@wapimaskwa69:**
Stadium referendum finally dies before Regina City Council last night. GIVE IT UP ALREADY #yqr

**@marchigiano:**
We gettin' wild here in SK: now allowed "strip-tease performances & wet clothing contests in adult-only liquor permitted premises" #skpoli

**@PaigeKezima:**
Phew. I was really worried as to when I could next take part in a wet tshirt contest in Saskatchewan. Thanks Brad. #saskadvantage #skpoli

**@PaydenFraser:**
Why are plate registration costs so high? I'm already a broke student.

metro
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The long awaited screen adaptation of The Life of Pi finally arrives in theatres this weekend. HANDOUT

# Ocean's raw power inspires, creates cinematic awe in Pi

**New release.** Life of Pi joins a long list of films who have used the beauty and the beast of the blue as a wild backdrop

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Joseph Conrad wrote of the ocean's awesome power: "The sea has never been friendly to man."

Less eloquent is this quote from Beauty Queens by Libba Bray: "You can't believe how bleeding scary the sea is! There's, like, whales and storms and s—t!"

Not to mention killer whales, giant waves and even H-bomb mutated giant octopuses!

The ocean and its power has been challenging cinematic sailors for decades.

From the early screen adaptations of Moby Dick to the crazy sea monsters of 1950s B-movies to this weekend's The Life of Pi, based on the megahit novel by Yann Martel, the ocean has provided a wet and wild backdrop for Hollywood.

Pi's story of a boy set adrift on the ocean in a lifeboat with only a tiger for a companion is a coming-of-age story that uses the sea as a metaphor. Most films are more literal.

The giant wave that capsizes the ship in The Poseidon Adventure was no metaphor, it was a terrifying display of the ocean's power, even if it was filmed using a 21 foot 6 inch long miniature ship in a 300 by 350 foot water tank on a Hollywood stage.

Filmmakers have often looked to sea creatures for inspiration. Everything from LOTR: Fellowship of the Ring to Sharktopus features fantasy monsters unleashed by the deep. One of the best-known B-movies of the 1950s is It Came From Beneath the Sea, the story of a giant octopus awakened by the radiation from H-bomb tests.

The film was so low budget, special effects wizard Ray Harryhausen cut corners by building his octopus model with six rather than the usual eight tentacles. To cover his cheat, he posed the creature so viewers couldn't count the arms.

Finally, Orca, the best known of the killer whale movies, shows a much more real threat.

Or does it?

The joke is that killer whales aren't all that dangerous — to humans anyway.

"There has never been a substantiated case of an orca killing a man," wrote Outside magazine's Tim Cahill, "despite the 1977 movie Orca, in which a killer whale seeks revenge on Richard Harris by eating all his co-stars. The movie was so silly, unscientific and unbelievable that one critic suggested Harris fight a duel to the death with his agent for getting him the role."

**Life of Pi**

**Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001.**

- **Background.** The main character, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a young Indian boy, explores issues of spirituality and practicality.
- **Awards.** The book was chosen for CBC Radio's Canada Reads 2003. The year before, it won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Martel was only the third Canadian to ever win the literary legends nod. It dates back to 1969.

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# Florida death row inmate may be involved in killing of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife: Documentary

A documentary about an inmate on Florida's death row says the convicted killer might have been involved in the murder of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and her friend.

The Investigation Discovery show, My Brother the Serial Killer, will air Wednesday.

The doc is a look at Glen Rogers, who was convicted by a Florida jury in 1997 for killing a woman.

Rogers was also convicted of murder in California and is a suspect in homicides in several other states.

Rogers, who is from Hamilton, Ohio, met Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994 when he was living in Southern California, his family says in the documentary.

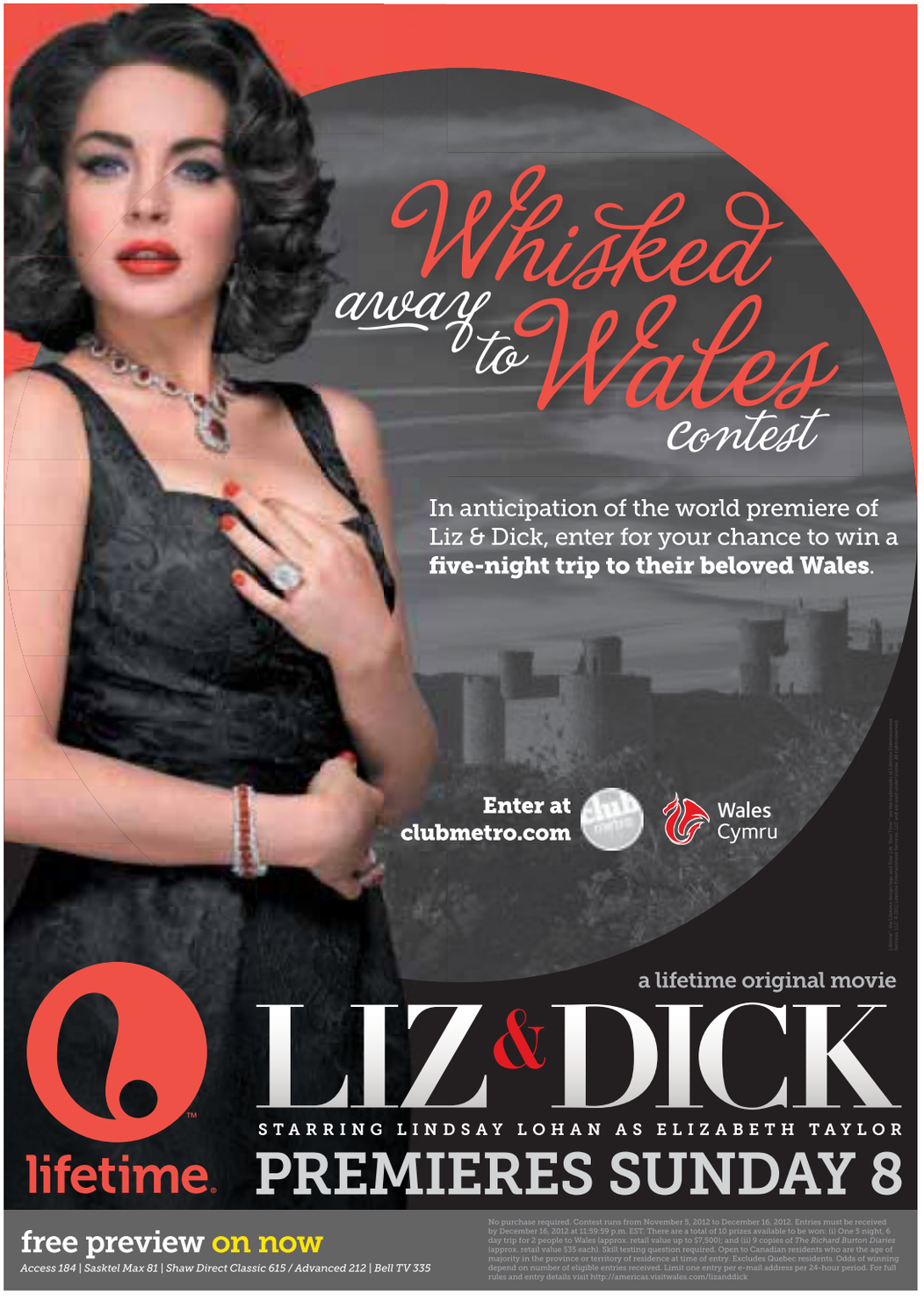
A criminal profiler in the film says he received paintings by Rogers with clues possibly linking him to the 1994 murders of Simpson's ex-wife and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Simpson was accused in those killings, but the so-called "trial of the century" in Los Angeles ended with his acquittal in 1995.

Simpson never testified at the criminal trial, but memorably demonstrated in court that a glove found near the slaying scene did not fit his hand. He testified at length in a wrongful death trial that led a Los Angeles civil court jury in 1997 to find him liable for damages in the case.

Much of the film is narrated by Rogers' brother, Clay Rogers, who used to rob homes with Glen Rogers as a teen, but in 1993 called police on his brother after finding a body at the family's Kentucky cabin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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No purchase required. Contest runs from November 5, 2012 to December 16, 2012. Entries must be received by December 16, 2012 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST. There are a total of 10 prizes available to be won: (i) One 5 night, 6 day trip for 2 people to Wales (approx. retail value up to $7,500) and (ii) 9 copies of The Richard Burton Diaries (approx. retail value $35 each). Skill testing question required. Open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in the province or territory of residence at time of entry. Excludes Quebec residents. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Limit one entry per e-mail address per 24-hour period. For full rules and entry details visit http://americas.visitwales.com/lizanddick


**Reviews**

## Red Dawn

**Starring.** Chris Hemsworth, Adrianne Palicki

**Director.** Dan Bradley

The original Red Dawn was such a product of the Cold War paranoia that remaking it seems doomed for failure. Spokane, Wash., is the target of an invasion that leaves a group of students in the surrounding hills launching guerilla-style assaults. A cyber weapon knocks out communications, ensuring that nothing modern is going to creep into this do-over that follows the original's plot points to a T. The cast are likeable and some of the action sequences are thrilling. But changing the invaders from Chinese to North Korean in post-production leaves gaps in the story and does little to boost the inanity of the plot.

IAN GORMELY

**Reviews**

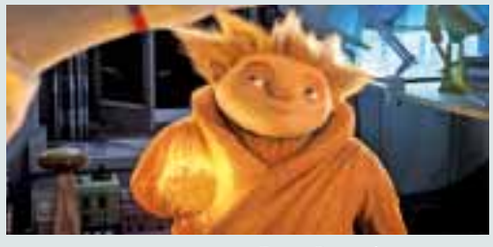
## Life Of Pi

**Starring.** Suraj Sharma

**Director.** Ang Lee

Based on Yann Martel's megahit 2001 novel, Life of Pi stars Suraj Sharma as Pi Patel, a 16-year-old boy set adrift on a lifeboat after the freighter his family was taking from India to a new life in Canada sinks. His companion is Richard Parker, a Bengal tiger, and refugee from the Patel family zoo. The metaphorical and introspective story is complimented by many startlingly beautiful images and a spiritual undertow. Despite drifting off course from time to time with some ill advised magic realism and some repetition, Lee for the most part steers the story into safe, comforting waters. IAN GORMELY

**Reviews**



## Rise of the Guardians

**Starring.** Alec Baldwin, Hugh Jackman

**Director.** Peter Ramsey

A wacky adventure that casts legendary characters like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny in some sort of superhero squad, Rise of the Guardians may be kitschy, but the storyline never quite gels amidst its frenetic, plentiful 3D-action.

While the tale of these icons defending the innocence of adolescents from the Bogeyman seems earnest enough, the film feels like a forced renovation on famous folklore for today's toddlers. STEVE GOW

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Life of Pi 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:15-10:05
Red Dawn (PG) Wed-Thu 7:05-9:30
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:25

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

**The Word**

## *Rihanna's fans (hostages) finally released from her tour*

THE WORD
Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Monday night was Ri-Ri's final show in New York, finishing off a week of mayhem at 35,000 feet. Metro has been by her side for seven crazy days.

Back up by 24 hours: Prior to Monday's show in London, Rihanna was at the Westfield Shopping mall in Stratford (built just before the Olympic Games), to set the Christmas light display ablaze. Rumour has it she got $793,000 to show up, but there's no confirmation yet. There, Rihanna holds the closest she has gotten to a press conference.

"I love this album like it wasn't my own!" she exclaims.

After one song, she takes off in a golf cart, leaving her fans disappointed.

"I've been waiting since 12 o'clock," fan Vanessa Leadbitter says. "I love Rihanna, but she could have played more than one song!"

Fast-forward five hours and we're at the venue: The Forum in London's Kentish Town area.

Rihanna enters on time (almost), which might have something to do with the fact that Jay-Z is livestreaming the gig. The star puts on her best performance since Stockholm, despite technical problems.

At the after-party, she's nowhere to be seen, but the backing band are pleased.

"It helps not being four hours late," one mutters.

At 3 a.m., the buses leave the hotel for the airport. A mere six hours after that, we're on the plane to New York.

Ashton Kutcher

## Kutcher following Kunis around on her shooting schedule

Ashton Kutcher seems to be choosing where to spend his time these days based on where rumoured girlfriend Mila Kunis is shooting a movie.

After a few months in New York, the couple has now been spotted in Rome, where Kunis is filming The Third Person, according to Hollyscoop.

They also found time for some romantic dinners out and strolling around the city hand-in-hand, doing little to keep their relationship under wraps.

Evan Rachel Wood

## Wood shoots down pregnancy rumours

Newlywed Evan Rachel Wood is combatting pregnancy rumours after she was photographed this week in L.A. grabbing her stomach and wearing a baggy poncho while grocery shopping with husband Jamie Bell.

The speculation is unfounded, though, the actress insists.

"Sorry to disappoint. But no baby on the way here," Wood posted to Twitter after the photos hit gossip sites.

The pair quietly tied the knot three weeks ago.

**Twitter**

**@Rosie**
Ready for my post heart attack cardio workout ... Starting not to hate it ... A huge plus

**@ABFoundation**
Canada is lovely. Canadians are lovely.

**@EmmaBunton**
I've been up so long feels like lunch time, hungry!

**@prattprattpratt**
A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down? But it doesn't help the diabetes. Think Poppins! You can't afford to lose another child.

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# Disney's Magic Europe

Starting June, 2013, the Disney Magic cruise ship sails to new ports in Turkey and Italy. Disney Cruise Line partners with local tourist companies to deliver unique family oriented Port Adventures. These pre-booked excursions include activities for the whole family. The Magic will have four, seven, and 12 days sailings to the Mediterranean this summer.

**STORY AND PHOTOS: KATHY BUCKWORTH**
life@metronews.ca

## Turkey

A scavenger hunt in St. John Basilica has guests following clues and finding treasures to help an archaeologist (actor) solve a puzzle, while touring this ancient church, home to St. John the Apostle's burial spot. The hunt continues in the ancient Roman city of Ephesus, where groups can speak with a real archeologist to learn the art of a "dig" and look for treasure. A lunch tour features Grecian gowns for guests to wear as they eat typical Roman food, meet Cleopatra and judge an epic battle between two gladiators. Disney gives parents the opportunity to shop in Sirince, while kids are given a lesson on how to make typical glass bead bracelets or necklaces. A trip to the traditional Turkish Bath is also organized.

## Rome

Every Disney Mediterranean cruise stops in Rome, and most cruisers want to hit "the big five." The Vatican (museum), St. Peter's Basilica, the Coliseum, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. There are a variety of port excursions to choose for these. Other Port Adventures include the Gallerie Borghese and Teatro del Burattino. Unique to Disney, a puppet show in English delights the kids while parents grab 45 minutes of shopping (or a quick gelato) at the nearby Spanish Steps. Kids are supervised by youth counsellors from the ship; parents are welcome to stay. An adult-only activity is offered at the ArtStudio Café to create mosaic art under the direction of one of Rome's premier artists, while enjoying wine, local cheese and cured meats.

## Venice

Venice is the only overnight stop on the 12-day cruise. Developed for kids, Venetian mask making is proving to be popular for families. Guidance is provided by professional mask makers as guests paint and decorate a unique souvenir. The Canottieri Bucintoro rowing club will take guests aged 16 and over for a unique three hour opportunity to learn how to row like a Gondolier in the waters of Venice. Participants are awarded a certificate in "voga veneta", as well as prosecco and snacks. Venice's most famous landmark, the Doge's Palace, is made available for a private tour after hours, and in true Disney style, a special reception at the end of the tour is hosted by Disney Princesses, who come ashore from the ship.

Read metro your money every Tuesday for financial tips, trends and advice.

Only in Metro. News worth sharing.

# A weekend in Mexico City

**Capital.** You have two days in one of the world's largest cities. We have the plan

REBECCA FINKEL
life@metronews.ca

Mexico City is like a map of the human brain: a simmering, complex, ever-changing storehouse of history, art, fashion and food. At 923 square kilometres and 20 million people, you could spend weeks just getting acquainted, but with cheaper fares now available, it's possible to enjoy this fascinating city in shorter increments.

The zocalo THINKSTOCK

Check out La Ciudad. THINKSTOCK

## Saturday

A good place to start is the Museum of Anthropology, where you'll get a sense of the country's ancient culture and mythology. With jet-lag working in your favour, head over early to beat the crowds, and then wander among edifices of ancient temples, handmade gold and turquoise jewelry and the original Stone of the Sun, a.k.a. the Aztec Calendar.

After learning what's come before, it's time to plunge into modern Mexico. Head to the Zocalo, the bustling plaza in the heart of historic downtown, and stop into the National Palace to see Diego Rivera's rustic yet bitingly political murals. Spend a quiet moment in the Metropolitan Cathedral before lunch at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the square — and the excavation of an ancient temple found during a dig to lay the electrical system.

After a brief siesta, cap off your day with shopping, dinner and nightlife in the hip Condessa and adjoining La Roma neighbourhoods. There, you'll find a mixture of tourist spots and local shops.

## Sunday

Start your day in Coyoacan, a quaint, relaxed neighbourhood and home to Casa Azul, where artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera lived from 1929 to 1954. Their passion is evident in both their lovingly preserved household and their exhibited works. But let's get real — you're there for the food.

A few blocks south of Casa Azul is the Mercado de Coyoacan: a massive indoor space where vendors sling some of the freshest (and cheapest) street fare in the city. Service is friendly but dizzyingly brisk — just belly up to a table, be brave and order. Don't miss Tostadas de Coyoacan, where shrimp or fish ceviche is piled atop delicately crisp tortillas.

Continue south to the Plaza del Coyocan to cool your tongue with a paleta (cream- or fruit-based popsicle) or to re-energize with a cappuccino. Just off the plaza is the Mercado Artisinal, where you can shop for local crafts and freshly-blended molé powder (which, unlike the fresh paste, can be smuggled home in your carry-on).

Street food THINKSTOCK

**Where to stay**

### Sheraton Maria Isabel

The Sheraton Maria Isabel is an anchor in a sprawling city, located on the Paseo de la Reforma, with views of the gilded Angel of Independence and Chapultepec Park, the largest city park in the Western Hemisphere. Stop in to the '60s time-capsule Bar Jorango for a shot of tequila with a side of sangrita. Don't be surprised to suddenly find yourself in a squall of singing mariachis.

**Getting there**

### Interjet

Mexican airline Interjet (interjet.com) offers affordable flights in modern Airbus A320s that don't skimp on legroom.

Silk Holidays Spirit of Asia
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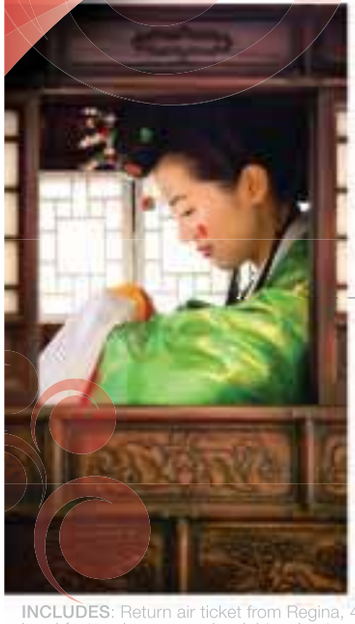

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UNIGLOBE Action Travel

# Roasted Vegetable Quiche offers a hint of delicious cheesy indulgence

Roasted Vegetable Quiche

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This simple, colourful quiche is jammed with seasonal vegetables and has just enough rich Gruyère to make it taste indulgent.

But the most indulgent aspect of this recipe is that it can be prepared and baked the day before your next family dinner, meaning you have one less dish to worry about on the day of.

Just pop it into a 300 F oven for 10 to 15 minutes to warm right before serving.

**1.** Heat the oven to 400 F.

**2.** In a large bowl, toss together the red pepper, red onion, sweet potato and zucchini. Add the olive oil, rosemary, salt and pepper, then stir to coat. Spread the mixture on a rimmed baking sheet and roast for 30 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender and beginning to brown. Remove the vegetables from the oven.

**3.** Reduce the heat to 350 F.

**4.** If it isn't already, fit the pie crust into a pie pan, crimping the edges as needed. Place the pie shell on a baking sheet and add the roasted vegetables. Top with the cheese.

**5.** In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs and the half-and-half. Pour over the cheese and vegetables. Bake for 45 minutes, or until slightly puffed and set in the middle. Allow to cool slightly before serving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Ingredients**

- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 small sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp minced fresh rosemary
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 prepared raw 9-inch pie crust
- 3/4 cup shredded cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup half-and-half

**Drink of the Week**

## No. 11

We're not sure why it's called No. 11 but this drink combines bitters with honey and vanilla for a very unique combination.

- Dash Angostura bitters
- 1 bar spoon of honey syrup
- 2 oz vanilla bean bourbon

Stir the Angostura bitters, honey syrup and vanilla bean bourbon; strain into a glass with ice and garnish with three brandied cherries.

METRO WORLD NEWS/JOHN MCCARTHY, WHITEHALL BAR AND KITCHEN IN NEW YORK

# To market, to market to land a new gig

**Create your dream career.** How to break into the marketing field without a business degree

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU
TalentEgg.ca

"You're an artsie, you're an artsie, you're an artsie overjoyed… but you'll always be an artsie and you'll never be employed!"

Or so the chant goes. This was one of the playful taunts that would be hurled at us arts students back in university.

I studied political science and sociology in my undergrad and one question I always used to get from family and friends was, "What are you gonna do with that?"

Well, let's just say I turned it into a blossoming career (modesty aside) in communications and marketing for the non-profit sector. It's not quite the traditional or linear route, but is there ever such a thing in life?

I first broke into the industry back in 2009 with a winning combination of great timing, determination, and good ol' fashioned hard work.

Social media (now part and parcel of marketing and communications) was just beginning to blow up in the non-profit world and I somehow nabbed myself a social media internship at an international development organization. Since then, I've worked in communications and marketing positions with non-profits and businesses alike. So how do I do it even without the degree?

More than the degree, employers want to see that you can apply yourself creatively, so step up and show them something different. ISTOCK

### Hit the books

A lot of what I've learned has been self-taught. I hit the books and the blogs to learn about basic marketing principles and to keep up with the latest social media trends.

It's something that I haven't stopped doing since I entered the field. In the fast-paced technological world we live in today, it's essential to keep up with the latest trends to keep your edge.

### Be a Jack of all trades and a master of one

Who ever said that this had to be an either/or option? I honestly believe that in today's world, it's not enough that you just specialize in one thing and one thing alone. You've got to have a wide and diverse set of skills to thrive in this dynamic and often uncertain economy.

That's why I continually build on my skill set, learning the basics of coding and Photoshop while exploring new tech tools available. Trust me, there is great value in this versatility and being someone that your employers can always count on ain't a bad thing!

### Leverage that arts degree

I didn't go to business school and I don't have a marketing or communications degree, but my background as an arts student has equipped me with skills absolutely vital in this field. I've leveraged the analytical, research and communication skills that every arts student has mastered (or at least should have mastered) after four years of undergrad.

### Network, network, network

When I first started, I networked like crazy. In fact, I still do and you should too. Attend industry events and connect with all kinds of professionals more experienced than you. Set up informational interviews to really immerse yourself in the field and extract as much knowledge and information from them as possible.

### Market yourself

What kind of marketer or communicator would you be if you couldn't even sell yourself, right? Build your personal brand and carve a niche for yourself. Find a way to set yourself apart from the rest of the crowd. I've done that by making a home for myself on the Internet and giving an alternative to that boring old text-based resumé.

**Dream it, be it**

**"Live and breathe the position you want to see yourself in and present yourself as such."**
Justine Abigail Yu

### Fake it 'til you make it

The rest is what I like to call faking it 'til you make it. For a while, you'll feel like a bit of a sham working in the field without the degree or experience (I know I did!), but trust me, that stuff is overrated. Live and breathe the position you want to see yourself in and present yourself as such. Learn the ropes, work relentlessly hard, make those connections and before you know it, you've broken into the industry and are probably rocking it without even realizing it.

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CFL

## Ticats making move to Guelph during stadium construction

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats will play CFL home games next season at the University of Guelph while their new stadium is being built, says team president Scott Mitchell.

The university stadium only has 7,500 seats currently and Mitchell couldn't say yet exactly how many might be added next year, but he said there should be enough to accommodate all season-ticket holders in some fashion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

## Accolades pile up for Argos' Owens

Chad Owens has reached another high point in his stellar season after winning the CFL offensive player of the week award for his role in leading the Toronto Argonauts to a berth in the 100th Grey Cup.

The Toronto slotback registered a club playoff record 207 yards on 11 receptions in the Argonauts' 27-20 win over the Montreal Alouettes in the East Division final on Sunday. He had a 70-yard reception early in the third quarter that set up a momentum-grabbing touchdown for Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos slotback Chad Owens
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

NBA

## Jays bring Gibbons back as manager

In one of the most hectic 24-hour periods in team history, the Toronto Blue Jays saved the biggest surprise for last.

Hot on the heels of having their mammoth 12-player trade with the Miami Marlins approved by Major League Baseball and finalizing a contract with controversial free-agent outfielder Melky Cabrera, the Blue Jays unexpectedly named John Gibbons as their new manager Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stampeders lineman Obby Khan arrives with his teammates in Toronto for the 100th annual Grey Cup on Tuesday. VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Stamps cowboy-up for Toronto arrival

**CFL.** Lineman Khan and teammates 'representing Western Canada' upon touchdown in Ontario

**Quoted**

**"I'm from Detroit, we don't do Cowboy ..."**

**Stampeders quarterback Kevin Glenn,** who arrived in Toronto in a costly suit, a couple of high-end suitcases and a pair of Stampeders-red headphones.

Calgary offensive lineman Obby Khan has been to three Grey Cups in the past five seasons, so he considers himself something along the lines of the older, wiser, elderly statesman of his unit.

That's why, when the Stampeders landed in Toronto Tuesday evening, Khan was among the players who elected to dress "cowboy" instead of suit and tie.

"Are you kidding, we're representing Western Canada," said Khan, the six-foot-four, 270-pounder who might have been the biggest cowboy on his team Tuesday night.

"You get a chance to dress up like this once a year if you are lucky, so why not take advantage and have some fun. And it's natural for me, since I am the best-dressed, best-looking (offensive lineman) here."

The "older and wiser" reference is Khan's own phrasing. At 32, the Ottawa native is indeed the oldest O-lineman Calgary will suit up for the 100th Grey Cup Sunday against the Argos.

Khan was sporting a sheriff's badge on his plaid shirt. The badge is symbolic of his elderly status. Khan, though, fell short in the 2011 Grey Cup with Winnipeg, and suffered a leg injury in 2007 with the Bombers that kept him out of the game.

So when Stampeders coach John Hufnagel gave his club the option to dress western or suit and tie for the trip to Toronto, Khan wasn't about to let the fun pass him by.

"I never cowboyed up before," Khan said.

"We went to these stores last night.... I didn't know python skin boots came in size 14."

That's the way the Stamps entered the Toronto scene.

The team aimed to hit the big city wrapped in a little western-themed clothing. The week will get progressively more intense and focused, so a little fun on the way in helped break up the seriousness that will be at hand in the 100th Grey Cup game Sunday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## NHL. Players expected to table proposal on Wednesday

The ball is back in the hands of the NHL Players' Association.

With collective bargaining talks set to resume at the NHL head office on Wednesday morning, the union is expected to table a new proposal. It comes on the heels of a 90-minute meeting on Monday evening, where the league asked NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr to put together a comprehensive offer that includes how to split revenue and rules governing player contracts.

"We've never heard a full proposal from them," said deputy commissioner Bill Daly. "We've heard their proposal on economics, they're still suggesting that they're moving in our direction on economics. Until we know exactly where they stand on economics ... we think it's all tied together.

"We'd like to hear it all together."

In addition to revenue split and player contract rules, the sides need to work out how to pay for the damage caused by the lockout. In the NHLPA's most recent offer, which was tabled Nov. 7, the union asked for the players' share of revenues to jump in fixed increments of 1.75 per cent each season, starting from the $1.883 billion they took in last year.

That proposal didn't include the mechanism that would be used to account for the reduced revenue generated during a shortened 2012-13 season.

The NHL would prefer a proposal based on a percentage of annual revenue.

"If their proposal continues to be a guaranteed player amount, sitting here on Nov. 19, that's not a proposal that would ever be acceptable to us," said Daly. "If that happens to be where we are, we will be a long way apart."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**More games under the axe?**

**The meeting on Wednesday comes at the same time the league is expected to cancel more games.**

- According to sources, the NHL has decided to wipe the first two weeks of December off the schedule, which will bring the total lost during the lockout to more than 400 games.

4 SPORTS

DRIVE 5

# Have we all gone a bit ‘soft’ on vehicle quality?

## Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Look closely, the quality is in the detail. Cars from three or four decades ago have very different problems than today’s vehicles. HANDOUT

Vehicle quality used to be easy to describe. A window crank falling off in your hand? That was bad quality. A window crank not falling off? That was good quality.

Now most cars have fewer and fewer defects from the factory. So how are we assessing vehicle quality in this modern era?

Well the fine people at J.D. Power and Associates — who have been measuring initial vehicles after 90 days of ownership, every year for the last 26 — have determined that we’re getting “soft” when it comes to assessing quality.

By “soft” they mean that we’re more concerned about how well things work, rather than whether they work or not, because, well, they almost always do work.

Dave Sargent is the vice-president at J.D. Power and Associates and heads up its Global Automotive practice. Last week, he spoke at the AutoTalk Canada conference in Toronto, and expounded about this evolution of quality perception.

He started his talk by noting that quality remains of paramount importance to consumers and that nothing else drives satisfaction, loyalty and image to the same degree.

He also noted that the customer’s perception of what constitutes quality is constantly evolving and will continue to do so. For one thing, we get used to great quality, and move on to things that tick us off.

This has meant quality issues are bleeding into areas we normally thought of as design. Basically, poor design is now seen as poor quality and customers consider these design problems as being just as severe as defects.

And the area most affected by poor design and subsequent “soft” problems is the interface between driver and vehicle. The infotainment and inter-connected wonderland is now the new quality battleground.

According to Sargent, for the first time in the 26-year history of the study, owners report more problems related to audio, entertainment and navigation system than in any other vehicle area.

Speaking about the technological wonders coming in this area, Sargent had this to say: “Customers are excited. They are also confused and fearful. They need help.”

The nature of the problems here are what’s causing the confusion and fear. Take voice command for example, which has become the most-often-reported problem in the industry. If it doesn’t work as you had hoped or expected, you have to live with it for the whole time you own the vehicle.

Your dealer could fix your window crank problem in one short visit. But he is often powerless to make your voice command system work to your satisfaction. And when this happens, it happens to every one of the units made, not just the ones where a line worker forgot to tighten the window crank.

Sargent believes dealerships could better support consumers in this area by doing a better job of explaining how these systems work during the delivery process. But he also noted another problem — consumers are becoming increasingly skeptical about the dealership’s ability to handle today’s complex vehicles.

Oh boy. Can’t you just hear the automotive folks pining for the old days, when their major warranty problem was just loose nuts, and maybe a bit of rust.

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## Horoscopes

### ♈ Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
Life is good and about to get even better. You can't quite believe that? Well, you will when you begin to see that everything is going your way at last. Keeping a positive attitude is easy when so many positive things are happening.

### ♉ Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
The atmosphere at work may be less than harmonious today but don't make a big deal of it. Some of your colleagues are going through difficulties at the moment but it isn't your fault, so don't take it to heart.

### ♊ Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
Why are you still hung up about what a certain person said? Why can't you let it go? Maybe it's because you recognize there was an element of truth in it. So what? You never claimed to be perfect.

### ♋ Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
If you allow too many thoughts to run through your head today, you will be easily confused. That, in turn, will lead to mistakes. Focus on the one thing that matters. More than one and you may mentally exhaust yourself.

### ♌ Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
With the Sun beginning its transit of the most dynamic area of your chart, you honestly believe that all things are possible — and they are. Don't let anyone tell you that your dream is unattainable. They're wrong.

### ♍ Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
The harder you have worked in recent weeks, the more you will need to relax a bit now. Spend time with your family and loved ones and don't think you have to do everything yourself. You've done enough.

### ♎ Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
Do what feels right to you today and don't worry in the slightest if other people disagree with you. They have no right to dictate what you should think, say or do — and you have a right to be yourself.

### ♏ Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
Make sure you keep a smile on your face over the next 24 hours. You have important matters to deal with and the burden you bear is considerable, but you'll bear it better if you think and look happy.

### ♐ Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
Everyone knows what you are capable of so you don't have to prove yourself in any way. Having said that, cosmic activity in your birth sign means you want to put on a show. Make it the best show.

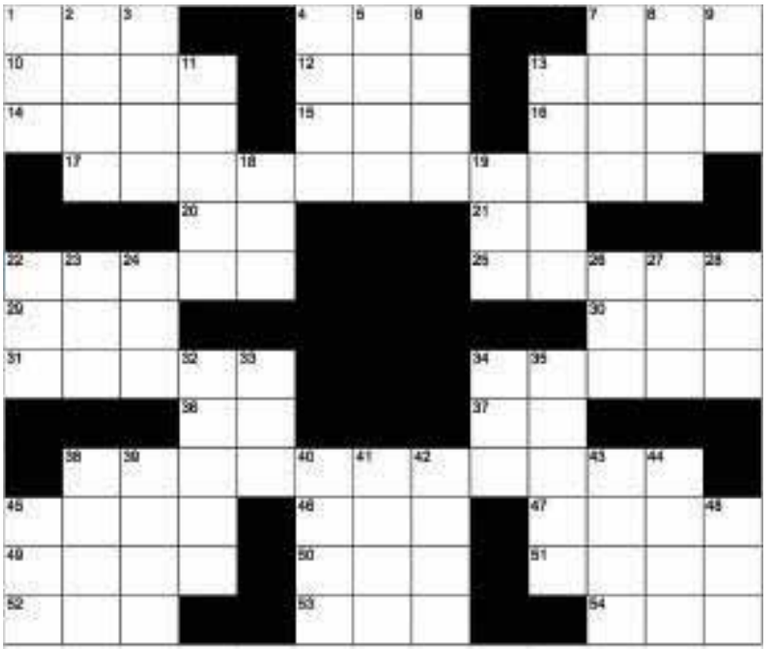
### ♑ Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
The Sun's change of signs today will encourage you to think deeply about your life and its meaning. Some people may say it doesn't have meaning and that your existence is hollow. But they are wrong, and you know it.

### ♒ Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
Try not to take anything too seriously today. According to the planets, you need to lighten up a little and the best way to do that is in the company of some of your way out friends. They'll make you laugh.

### ♓ Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
The Sun's change of signs today will make you even more ambitious than usual, and that's good. However, your ambitions need to be tempered by the realization that causes always have consequences. Think before you act. SALLY BROMPTON

## Crossword

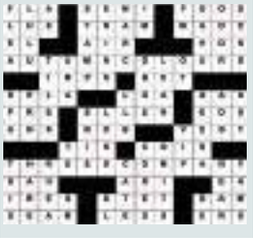
BY BETTY MARTIN



**Across**
1. Auto navigational device (abbr.)
4. Food scrap
7. Term of respect
10. Israeli airlines
12. Foot digit
13. E-mail request
14. Actress —– Flynn Boyle
15. Small amount
16. Operatic solo
17. "You Belong with Me" singer/songwriter (2 words)
20. Shoe width
21. Railway extension
22. Crown
25. Student assignment
29. Airport info.
30. Summer cooler
31. Ogles
34. Breakfast order
36. Model railroad gauge
37. Musical group: – Vogue
38. Praises
45. Alike
46. Poem
47. Spring flower
49. Chocolate cookie
50. Geese formation
51. Work for a living
52. Lair
53. Have dinner
54. Actor of Lethal Weapon movies

**Down**
1. Hair product
2. A flat area of ground
3. Gilbert of The Talk
4. Beetle Bailey's pooch
5. Lion sound
6. Turner and Knight
7. Slave
8. Name abbr.
9. Star of Stargate: SG-1 (init.)
11. Hen
13. Glides
18. Jamie — Curtis
19. Tiny
22. Sophia's husband on The Golden Girls
23. Prior to
24. Anger
26. Bag-like structure
27. "Much – About Nothing"
28. Japanese currency
32. —– and Juliet
33. Steep
34. Stinging insect
35. Little Orphan —
38. Children's classic: The — Bears
39. Auspice
40. The — Boat
41. Brainstorm
42. Greet
43. British transport
44. Procreate
45. Grass
48. Weekend variety show (init.)

### Yesterday's Crossword



### What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

## Sudoku

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 4 | | 3 | | | |
| 6 | 9 | | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| | 7 | | | 2 | | 8 | | |
| | 5 | | 1 | 4 | | | | 8 |
| | | 7 | | | | 6 | | |
| 3 | | | | 9 | 8 | | 2 | |
| | | 5 | | 6 | | | 8 | |
| 9 | 4 | | | | | | 6 | 5 |
| | | | 2 | | 1 | | | 9 |

### Yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 |

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